

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

- **S.B. No. 184** (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.
- **H.B. No. 5262** (RAISED) AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY STATUTES.

This testimony is being co-authored by Celeste Echlin and Samuel Walker. We are residents of Harwinton in the 8th Senate District and 76th House District of CT. We submit this written testimony to strongly support the passing of both the Senate Bill #184 as well as the House Bill # 5262. The Covid-19 Pandemic has certainly brought into focus the barriers that many potential voters have faced around voting issues for decades. There has always been a significant number of variables such as health issues and concerns for seniors, unpredictable work schedules, lack of transportation and jobs with long commutes for the working poor that have been perpetual barriers. Passing SB 184 and HB 5262 is the right thing to do and begins to address some of those barriers. With the fears that accompanies responding/reacting to Coronavirus protocols we are finding it increasingly difficult to remain as active as we have been in the past, exercising our right to engage in the constitutional right to give voice to the direction that our state and nation is headed. The safety measures, which included the access to "no excuse use of the absentee ballot", put in place for the pandemic should remain in perpetuity and be supported by the legislature on both sides for the aisle.

Respectfully Submitted,
Celeste Echlin and Samuel Walker